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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,884	03/15/2001	Naohiro Furukawa	ASAM.0007	3520

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN BA, PAUL H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 03/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/805,884	FURUKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Paul Nguyen-Ba	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 December 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This action is responsive to Change of Address/Power of Attorney filed on 12/23/2004.
2. Claims 1-17 are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, and 14 are independent claims.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruce et al. ("Bruce"), U.S. Patent No. 6,741,724, in view of Stinson et al. ("Stinson"), U.S. Patent No. 6,695,204.

Independent Claim 1

Bruce teaches a form processing system comprising:

a management system...for creating and managing a form identification dictionary for identifying a type of form (col. 4, lines 32-50; col. 5, lines 10-14 → Video Coding Computer (VCC) performs a check to in a verification database (compare with “*form identification dictionary*”) to identify whether the text is valid and then formats, buffers, and ultimately stores the newly updated or created data in the National Change of Address (NCOA) database); and

a plurality of form processing terminals...to process the form (see Fig. 2; col. 2, lines 44-50; col. 4, lines 15-41 → the processing terminals scans the forms, processes the images, and analyzes the text data (i.e. Scanner, OCR, Arbitrator)); wherein

said management system...and said plurality of...terminals are interconnected via network (see Figs. 1-4; col. 3, lines 61-65 → terminals (Scanner, OCR, Arbitrator) are linked together with the management system (VCC, Verification database, NCOA database, and VDT) in a network);

said form processing terminal, upon occurrence of failure...transmits image information of the form to said management system of form identification dictionary (col. 2, lines 49-56; col. 4, lines 32-34 → the text data in the form of an electronic data stream is sent to a VCC along with a copy of the image data from scanner and Arbitrator if the scanning error probability exceeds a predetermined limit); and

said management system...when said image information...has not been registered (i.e. Change of Address (COA) request had not previously been registered in the NCOA database)...*creates information for identifying the type of form..., stores...* (col. 2, lines 61-64;

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col. 3, lines 19-21; col. 5, lines 10-14 → VCC updates and stores newly created or revised information in the NCOA database).

Bruce does not specifically teach transmitting *the created information to said form processing terminal*.

However, Stinson teaches a check reader and processor (i.e. processing terminal) configured to receive information about the check to be processed from the check reader, access the database (i.e. management system) to obtain information, and determine whether to accept or reject the check based on input signals for the purpose of automatic check form identification (see Abstract).

Since Stinson and Bruce are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Stinson would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Bruce. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bruce with the teachings of Stinson to include transmitting *the created information to said form processing terminal* by input signals for the purpose of automatic form identification and database updating.

Independent Claim 2

With respect to independent claim 2, refer to the rationale relied upon to reject independent claim 1. However, Bruce does not specifically teach the system wherein *when said image information...has been registered...reads out information for identifying the type of form...and transmits the read-out information to said form processing terminal*.

However, if the Change of Address information had already been registered in the NCOA database, it was commonly known to those of ordinary skill in the art that the management

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system (VCC, NCOA database, etc.) would read out the information and transmit the information to the form processing terminals for the purpose of informing the customer that his information was already updated or created and that no further processing is necessary.

Claim 3

Bruce further teaches a form processing system wherein *said form processing terminal, upon occurrence of failure...transmits to said management system...the image information of the form together with information for supporting a work of creating the form identification dictionary* (col. 2, lines 49-56; col. 4, lines 32-34 → the text data in the form of an electronic data stream is sent to a VCC along with a copy of the image data from scanner and Arbitrator if the scanning error probability exceeds a predetermined limit).

Claim 4

Bruce teaches a form processing system with respect to independent claim 1 discussed above, but does not specifically teach *when said form identification dictionary...is updated, informs said plurality of form processing terminals of form...update information; and said management system..., upon reception of a request for use..., distributes the form identification information as requested to...terminals.*

However, Stinson teaches a check reader and processor (i.e. processing terminal) configured to receive information about the check to be processed from the check reader, access the database (i.e. management system) to obtain information, and determine whether to accept or reject the check based on input signals specifying updated information from the database for the purpose of automatic form identification (see Abstract).

Since Stinson and Bruce are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Stinson would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Bruce. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bruce with the teachings of Stinson to include *informing said plurality of form processing terminals of form...update information; and said management system..., upon reception of a request for use..., distributes the form identification information as requested to...terminals* for the purpose of automatic form identification and database updates.

Claim 5

Bruce teaches a form processing system with respect to claim 4 discussed above, but does not specifically teach *said management system...comprises a manager of system fee; and said manager of system fee...performs charging to said form processing terminals*.

However, Stinson teaches a processor for determining a fee to charge customer for the purpose of seeking monetary retribution for services rendered (see col. 13, lines 11-15).

Since Stinson and Bruce are both from the same field of endeavor, the purposes disclosed by Stinson would have been recognized in the pertinent art of Bruce. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bruce with the teachings of Stinson to include *management system...comprises a manager of system fee; and said manager of system fee...performs charging to said form processing terminals* for the purpose of seeking monetary retribution for services rendered.

Independent Claim 6

Management system claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as independent claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Independent Claim 7

Management system claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as independent claim 2, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 8

Management system claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 4, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 9

Management system claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 5, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Independent Claim 10

Form processing terminal claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as independent claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 11

Form processing terminal claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 3, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 12

Form processing terminal claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 4, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Independent Claim 13

Method of distributing form identification information claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as independent claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Independent Claim 14

Method of distributing form identification information claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as independent claim 2, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 15

Method of distributing form identification information claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 3, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 16

Method of distributing form identification information claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 4, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Claim 17

Method of distributing form identification information claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 5, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's outstanding arguments filed 11/1/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that none of the cited prior art references teaches or suggests "when said image information of the form transmitted from said form processing terminal has not yet been registered in said form identification dictionary, creating information for identifying the type of form, storing the created information in said form identification dictionary, and

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transmitting the created information to said form processing terminal.” Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Bruce teaches *when said image information of the form transmitted from said form processing terminal* (see col. 2 lines 44-45, col. 4 lines 16-19 → image data) *has not yet been registered in said form identification dictionary* (i.e. Change of Address (COA) request had not previously been registered in the NCOA database (*compare with* “form identification dictionary”)), *creating information for identifying the type of form* (name and address information identifies form as a COA form), *storing the created information in said form identification dictionary* (col. 2, lines 61-64; col. 3, lines 19-21; col. 5, lines 10-14 → VCC updates form information and stores newly created or revised information in the NCOA database), and *transmitting the created information to said form processing terminal* (It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the teaching of Bruce with the teachings of Stinson to include transmitting *the created information to said form processing terminal* by input signals for the purpose of automatic form identification and database updating).

During patent examination, the pending claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation **without reading limitations of the specification into the claim**. *In re Hyatt*, 211 F.3d 1367, 1372, 54 USPQ2d 1664, 1667 (Fed. Cir. 2000). See also *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44 USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Applicant specifically contends that Bruce only processes an existing form and does not revise an existing form or add a new form in the dictionary, the data elements updated in Bruce are human written address data rather than any pre-printed forms, and rather than extracting pre-

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printed forms, Bruce only cares for addresses written by a user on a form. Although a cursory review of Bruce appears to show that Applicant's above contentions may be valid, these contentions or limitations are nowhere to be found in the broad claim language anticipated by Bruce, in view of Stinson, as discussed above. Examiner respectfully submits that nowhere in the claim language is a distinction drawn between pre-printed forms and human written forms. Furthermore, nowhere is the revision of an existing form or the addition of a new form in the dictionary found in the claim language without reading limitations of the specification into the claim.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Nguyen-Ba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4094.

The examiner can normally be reached on 10 am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PNB



SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER